

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 14-22 and 24-46 are active. Claim 14 has been amended to remove the phrase “Y¹ and Y² may couple to each other to form an alkylene group which may be through an oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atom”. Accordingly, the Applicants do not believe that any new matter has been added.

The Applicants thank Examiner Coleman for the helpful and courteous discussion of May 20, 2003. Revisions to the claim set that would direct it to elected subject matter and address the indefiniteness rejections were discussed. The Applicants believe the above amendments address these remaining issues. However, should other minor amendments be required, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned so that such may be made by Examiner’s Amendment. Favorable consideration is now requested.

Rejection—Improper Markush Group

Claims 14-22 and 24-26 were rejected as being directed to an improper Markush Group. This rejection/objection is moot in view of the revision of the claim set to be directed to the subject matter of elected Group III.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is moot in view of the amendment of the claim.

Application No. 09/978,102
Reply to Office Action of April 15, 2004

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Cunningham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas M. Cunningham
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